

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets.]

[Personal information has been **redacted**.]

[The excerpt below is from the section of the article that pertains to the Baha'i Faith]

[Newspaper:] Pardis

[Date:] Saturday, 13 February 1982 [24 Bahman 1360]

[Issue No.]: 81

[Page:] 4

A Letter from a Compatriot

Defending Human Rights Is Everyone's Duty

Dear Editor of the Honourable Pardis Newspaper,

Since your newspaper is one of the most honest newspapers, observes neutrality in all its articles and has no prejudice against any group, party or religion, and considering that I am also one of the patriotic and humanitarian people of Iran and free from any prejudice, hidden agenda or hostility, and besides that, I am one of the most ardent readers of your newspaper, I consider it necessary to express with sincerity and enthusiasm a few points regarding two matters in issue [number] 77, dated 26 Dey 1360 (2540) [16 January 1982].

As a child, according to my upbringing (I grew up in the arms of intellectual parents), I had different friends from all religions, including Baha'is, and this association with the virtuous people—as per the proverb that says your companion should be better than you—has continued up to this day, be it in the school and high school, during the office hours, [or in] social and family [life].

It was [asked], in one or two cases, why Baha'is only defend [against] the adversities, hardships and the killing of the people of their own religion and do not mention others who are, in fact, their compatriots and their fellow human beings, while claiming the unity of the world of humanity, brotherhood and world peace.

As far as I know, my friends, most of the time, not only grieve for the Baha'i friends, but they even grieve more for other compatriots. [The] Baha'i community in the United States, because of having an orderly organization around the world which strongly supports the solidarity of the community according to its spiritual responsibility for its Baha'i brothers and sisters, appeals to the competent authorities about the oppression applied [against them]. Unfortunately, [on one hand] such solidarity does not exist among the other people and parties of our [Iranian] society, and on the other hand, maybe other authorities [institutions] are defending the rights of other oppressed people.

They believe that, since Baha'is are obedient to the government and are free from political involvement, they are killed for their religion without any guilt or crime or even a trial and in today's civilized and free world, and this is against any human law and regulations.

As far as I fully believe in the comments of my friends, the Baha'i community around the world does not have the budget to defend its own rights by paying large sums of money to the mass media, such as Le Monde, Los Angeles Times, etc. But it is natural that in such cases where some people are killed just for the sake of religion, it stimulates the curiosity of the journalists and writers. As a result, it leads to interviews and discussions with some other people who are related to this issue, as I am certain that the respected newspaper did not receive any money.

It is hoped that you will publish my submissions as a humane and impartial Iranian, with a very valuable method that you have always followed and still have, in order to enlighten the minds of your dear compatriots.

Yours respectfully,

Sedigheh Sadegh

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The Killing of Baha'is in Iran Continues

Tehran evening newspapers published a press conference with Muhammad-e Gilani, head of the Central Revolutionary Courts. In this interview, Ayatollah Gilani, a well-known killer of thousands of Iranians, said, "With regard to the controversy of the systems of Western propaganda about the killing of the Baha'is, it has become evident that this perverse sect is harmful to the country and it is the obligation of the courts and the Sharia judges [authorities] to punish these people!